

Remarks

Claims 3-8 are pending with claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 being independent.

In the Final Office Action, claims 3-8 were rejected under judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as claiming an obvious variation of claims of co-pending application 09/201,815 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,877,767).

Applicant concurrently submits a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the rejection. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant submits the terminal disclaimer to expedite prosecution. Applicant is not commenting on the merits of the double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Appl. No. 09/557,149

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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